



## **Side Event:**

**A High-Level Dialogue with Civil Society Leaders  
and  
Member Countries' National Alliance Leaders  
on the Development of  
"The International Alliance Against Hunger"  
as a Leading Global, Political and Moral Force to End Hunger**

*30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security  
Wednesday, 22 September 2004  
Green room, 14:00-17:00 hrs*

# **THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER**

## **Draft Strategy Paper**

This draft strategy paper for the IAAH has been prepared to stimulate discussion and provoke an exchange of views among a broad base of institutions and organizations having an interest in the goals and work programme of the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH). It has been formulated by representatives of the following institutions and organizations participating in the *ad hoc* Rome-based working group that has been providing organizational leadership for the IAAH during the start-up phase: FAO, IFAD, IPGRI acting on behalf of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), WFP, International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs.

The draft will be revised on the basis of views expressed at the Side Event of the IAAH on the occasion of CFS/30 in September 2004. This revised draft will be used to guide the further development of the IAAH in the months thereafter. However, it is intended that the strategy should remain a living document, evolving as the Alliance grows and develops and discovers how it can become a truly effective force in the global fight against hunger.

# **The International Alliance Against Hunger**

## **Joining Forces to End World Hunger**

### **1. Why does the World Need an International Alliance Against Hunger?**

- That hundreds of millions of our fellow humans should suffer hunger, when we have the means to eradicate it, is morally unacceptable. It also puts a brake on economic growth in countries striving to end poverty, and contributes to conflict and global instability. It is in everyone's interest to end world hunger quickly, and everyone can play a part in this.
- An International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) is needed to bring added value to the work of many institutions which are firmly committed to reducing hunger but often working independently; by coordinating their actions and reinforcing each other, IAAH members are more likely to ensure that the World Food Summit target of halving the number of undernourished people is achieved by 2015 or before. Through achieving this goal, the Alliance will contribute to the attainment of other Millennium Development Goals, particularly those relating to poverty reduction, health and education.

### **2. Basic Principles and Aims**

- The IAAH is a voluntary association of institutions, organizations and National Alliances Against Hunger who share a common commitment to the rapid eradication of hunger in the world and who know that their actions will be all the more effective through working together. Membership is open to all – civil society organizations, social and religious movements, private sector and international organizations – but particularly to institutions which are truly representative of the poor and hungry. Most IAAH members, other than National Alliances, would already be engaged in actions at an international level, whereas institutions operating mainly within their own country would become part of the IAAH through their membership of National Alliances.
- All members should have a sense of partnership in the leadership, direction and activities of the Alliance. Alliance members recognize the value of diversity in their approaches to hunger reduction, and pledge to encourage all approaches that are relevant to achieving the common goal.
- The only obligation on members is that, upon joining the IAAH, they indicate how they intend to contribute to the work of the Alliance and that they make time-bound commitments (*Ending Hunger Pledges*) to undertake specific actions for which they will hold themselves accountable.
- The aims of the IAAH, as set out in the document presented to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2003, are to:
  - Strengthen national and global commitment and action to end hunger;
  - Facilitate dialogue on the most effective measures to be taken to reduce hunger;
  - Amplify and add value to the contributions and capacities of Alliance members;
  - Promote the emergence of mutually supportive action involving governments and other stakeholders in the fight against hunger.

- The IAAH is results-oriented, aiming to have a real impact on the scale and effectiveness of measures to combat hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. Its ultimate success will depend on its ability to give expression to the aspirations of the poor and hungry and to respond in ways that make a real difference.
- A principal function of the IAAH is to nurture the emergence and growth of strong National Alliances Against Hunger (NAAH) in both developing and developed countries, which will adhere to these same principles. NAAHs will be encouraged to enter into direct linkages with each other and to provide mutual support for each others' activities within the IAAH framework.

### **3. National Alliances Against Hunger**

- The initiative to form a NAAH can come from any institution or group of institutions, whether governmental or non-governmental, committed to ending hunger. The IAAH Secretariat and members of the IAAH will encourage and support the formation of NAAHs, but in ways which fully respect local leadership and ownership. The Secretariat will maintain a list of nascent National Alliances and will formally register NAAH as a member of the International Alliance on the request of its founders, when these are able to demonstrate that the Alliance has been constituted and includes major stakeholders from both government and civil society who have a track record of responsiveness to the most needy members of society. A list of countries in which governments and/or civil society institutions have expressed interest in establishing a National Alliance Against Hunger is attached as Annex 1.
- Each National Alliance will need to adapt its strategy to local conditions, developing national programmes that would include some or all of the following main elements:
  - Creating a truly national sense of commitment to eradicate hunger both within the country and world-wide, and offering a framework within which everyone can make a contribution to this goal;
  - Partnership building that expands the number of stakeholders that participate in the National Alliance and commit to concrete action to reduce hunger;
  - Advocacy for policy frameworks, action plans and resource commitments to ensure that all people can enjoy their right to food – a process which must involve the full engagement and participation of the sectors of the population most directly affected by food insecurity;
  - Communication and public affairs activities aimed at increasing public awareness of the need to focus on the poor and hungry and the issues involved, and publicizing the impact of actions taken to reduce hunger and poverty;
  - Supporting effective monitoring and tracking of results in reducing hunger through such mechanisms as national Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reports and country food security monitoring and reporting systems;
  - Promoting, coordinating and supporting direct assistance programmes for the benefit of the hungry which combine measures for sustainable livelihood improvements with actions to broaden access to food.
- All NAAHs are encouraged to have a strong action orientation. This could be achieved by adopting the concept of *Ending Hunger Pledges* and putting in place a monitoring and reporting system, linked to the IAAH website.

- NAAHs would report in-country to bodies responsible for monitoring the food security situation, the implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
- They would work closely with other existing coordination mechanisms, including National Thematic Groups of the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security as well as NGO coordination systems. Internationally, they would report to the IAAH.

#### 4. Global Activities

The global activities of the IAAH will focus on four major themes: Advocacy, Accountability, Resources Mobilization and Coordination.

- **Advocacy**
  - The IAAH, drawing on proposals from its members, will develop a limited number of common themes for international advocacy, communication and educational activities which can be taken up by its members. These will emphasize the attainability of the goal of a hunger-free world. Members will be encouraged to develop and share information materials and experiences relative to each selected theme, as well as to generate new and persuasive lines of advocacy.
  - Possible major thematic areas for initial advocacy aimed at broadening the constituency of support for action against hunger include:
    - Eradicating hunger is not simply a moral issue: it will create huge economic benefits and contribute to global stability and security;
    - Success in reducing hunger and malnutrition opens the way for achieving other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – for poverty reduction, health and education;
    - A hunger-free world is perfectly attainable goal: the means exist to end hunger;
    - Rapid progress in hunger and poverty reduction can be attained by combining measures aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the problem of chronic undernourishment, especially ones aimed at improving the performance of small-scale farms, with the development of safety nets;
    - Everyone can play their part in the war on hunger: make a commitment to direct action, and stand by it.
  - International advocacy efforts would give special emphasis to strengthening the provision of global public goods related to hunger eradication. This could involve, for instance, advocacy for a stronger international engagement in pro-poor agricultural research and for trading arrangements which support the efforts of developing countries to reduce the incidence of hunger and malnutrition. The Alliance could also add its voice to the calls for innovative international financing mechanisms to combat hunger and poverty. Providing a forum for dialogue among members on strategic issues of this nature will be an important function of the IAAH.

- The IAAH would encourage its members to come together under its banner so as to play a highly visible role at international conferences and meetings in calling attention to the importance of policies and programmes to reduce hunger. The proposed international event in 2005 commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration is one example of where the IAAH could collectively organize coordinated actions to ensure the fight against hunger is given high priority in future action to achieve the MDGs. Annual World Food Day events can be used to reinforce the need for joint action against hunger.

- **Accountability**

- Each member of the International Alliance or of National Alliances will set and declare its own goals and time-bound commitments in the form of an *Ending Hunger Pledge* and hold itself accountable to the Alliance for their achievement. *Pledges* and achievements will be posted on the NAAH and IAAH websites.
- National Alliances will also submit reports to the IAAH Secretariat on progress made and difficulties encountered in fighting hunger at country level.
- Monitoring of pledges and achievements, as well as other sources of information on the world hunger situation, would be used by the IAAH Secretariat in compiling its reports to the CFS. These reports could also be used by Alliance members in reporting to their own management and governing bodies.

- **Resource Mobilization**

- The Alliance would be active in encouraging and facilitating the mobilization of resources for programmes for hunger reduction. It would identify both needs and possible sources of funds and other forms of assistance and promote the necessary linkages, including the creation of twinning frameworks. The Secretariat would not, however, serve as a financial intermediary in channelling funds in support of hunger eradication programmes. Instead, it would promote direct funding arrangements between members, including the international financing institutions, and monitor and report on flows.
- Resource mobilization efforts would be built around the principle of reciprocal obligations between developing and developed country Alliances. When a National Alliance in a developing country firmly commits itself to hunger eradication, puts forward feasible proposals towards achieving this and allocates significant national resources, it should feel confident that this would trigger a reciprocal release of funds or other forms of assistance by developed country National Alliances and the international financing institutions, as well as regional entities.
- The IAAH Secretariat would be responsible for raising resources to meet its own immediate capital and operating costs from a combination of membership fees and voluntary donations.

- **Coordination**

- The IAAH Secretariat would serve as the central node for communication and coordination amongst Alliance members and affiliated National Alliances. The

website, which is under development, would provide the main mechanism through which coordination and sharing of information would be carried out.

- The Secretariat would encourage direct contacts and networking between IAAH members and National Alliances.
- The Secretariat would also assume lead responsibility for coordinating the work of the Alliance with other development processes at the international level, especially those related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **5. Functioning of the Secretariat**

- The IAAH Secretariat is provided by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Director-General of FAO on Follow-Up to the World Food Summit. Guidance is offered to the Secretariat by an interim committee, composed of representatives of IAAH founder members, which will eventually be replaced by a more fully representative board or oversight committee. Founder members are also contributing staff and resources to enable the Secretariat to become operational, but ultimately its costs must be met through membership fees and voluntary contributions.
- The intent expressed by the founder members is that the Secretariat should remain small. The implication is that most of the substantive work of the Alliance will have to be undertaken by its members, acting largely through their own initiative within the “space” and framework created by the Alliance.
- Members would be encouraged to use the IAAH Logo in connection with any activity undertaken by them on behalf of the Alliance, under the sole condition that relevant information, including presentations and publications, would be posted on the website and be available for use, without restriction, by other members. When using the IAAH Logo at events and in publications, members would be required to include a disclaimer to the effect that its display does not imply endorsement by *all* IAAH members.
- Although located in FAO and able to make use of the services of the Organization and its network of Representations as well as its privileged contacts with governments, the Secretariat is principally accountable to the collectivity of its members rather than to FAO or to any other single member. The long-term institutional and legal status of the Secretariat is an issue which will need eventually to be considered by IAAH members.
- The functions of the Secretariat are expected to evolve over time as the IAAH grows and its members articulate their requirements. At this early stage in the life of the Alliance, the principal functions of the Secretariat are to:
  - Maintain a register of the Alliance members, including affiliated National Alliances Against Hunger;
  - Prepare documents which explain the goals and purposes of the Alliance and draw these to the attention of governments and civil society organizations committed to ending hunger;
  - Facilitate the continuing evolution of the Alliance’s strategy so that it responds to members’ perceptions of new needs and opportunities;
  - Begin to engage partners in the work of the Alliance, focusing in the first instance on nurturing the formation of National Alliances Against Hunger in both developing and developed countries;

- Develop mutually supportive linkages with other alliances and mechanisms contributing directly or indirectly to hunger reduction;
- Support Alliance members' engagement in advocacy for hunger eradication, including arranging events as platforms for Alliance members and ensuring Alliance representation at major relevant international events and conferences;
- Create an interactive multilingual web-site to enable members of the Alliance, including National Alliances to share information, ideas and experiences and to seek partners. All Alliance members would be required to post their *Ending Hunger Pledges* on the IAAH website and to report on achievements;
- Develop standard monitoring frameworks and systems which can be used by NAAHs;
- Orchestrate virtual debates amongst Alliance members on major issues related to hunger reduction;
- Report on behalf of the IAAH to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which would serve as the primary mechanism for involving governments in the governance of the IAAH. Mechanisms will need to be agreed with the CFS to ensure that all categories of Alliance members are enabled to participate in global discussion and decision-making regarding the IAAH;
- Report, as considered appropriate by members, to other international bodies responsible for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

**Countries in which governments and/or civil society institutions have expressed  
interest in establishing a National Alliance Against Hunger  
as at 13/7/04**

## Africa:

1. Algeria
2. Botswana
3. Burkina Faso
4. Cameroon
5. Chad
6. Congo, Dem. Rep.  
of
7. Côte d'Ivoire
8. Ethiopia
9. Gambia
10. Ghana
11. Guinea
12. Kenya
13. Madagascar
14. Malawi
15. Mali
16. Morocco
17. Mozambique
18. Niger
19. Nigeria
20. Rwanda
21. Senegal
22. Sierra Leone
23. South Africa
24. Sudan
25. Swaziland
26. Tanzania
27. Togo
28. Uganda

## Asia &amp; Pacific:

29. Australia
30. Cambodia
31. China
32. Cook Islands
33. Fiji
34. India
35. Indonesia
36. Kiribati
37. Marshall Islands
38. Micronesia
39. Nauruv
40. Niue

41. Pakistan
42. Palau
43. Papua New Guinea
44. Philippines
45. Samoa
46. Solomon Islands
47. Thailand
48. Tonga
49. Tuvalu
50. Vanuatu
51. Vietnam

## Europe:

52. Austria
53. Azerbaijan
54. Belgium
55. France
56. Germany
57. Ireland
58. Italy
59. Spain
60. Switzerland
61. Turkey

## Latin America &amp; Caribbean:

62. Argentina
63. Bahamas
64. Belize
65. Bolivia
66. Brazil
67. Colombia
68. Dominican Rep.
69. Ecuador
70. El Salvador
71. Guatemala
72. Guyana
73. Haiti
74. Honduras
75. Jamaica
76. Nicaragua
77. Panama
78. Peru
79. Uruguay

## Near East:

80. Egypt
81. Jordan
82. Kyrgyz Republic
83. Syria

## North America:

84. USA